

Six Projects Nationally Recognized for Capturing Methane Gas for Use as Alternative Energy

Congresswoman Kaptur today congratulated the city of Toledo for receiving a national award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for the Hoffman Road landfill project, which captures methane gas for use as renewable energy.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson said the Hoffman Road facility is one of six methane capture projects to receive the 2011 award at the 14th annual Landfill Methane Outreach Conference in Baltimore, Md.

"The EPA is right to recognize the potential of this projects to create jobs, help us achieve energy independence, and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions," said Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

The genesis of the Hoffman project occurred in 2003 when Congresswoman Kaptur secured \$1.6 million in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to begin construction.

EPA has assisted with more than 490 landfill gas energy projects over the past 16 years, transforming waste into a green community asset. Landfill gas electricity generation projects have a capacity of 1,680 megawatts and provide the energy equivalent of powering almost one million homes annually as a clean energy source. The U.S. currently has approximately 540 operational landfill gas energy projects.

Methane, a primary component of landfill gas, is a greenhouse gas with more than 20 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. Using landfill gas has several benefits: it provides a significant energy resource, prevents greenhouse gas emissions, and reduces odors and other hazards associated with emissions.

This year's winning projects, EPA officials said, will avoid the emissions of 165,600 metric tons

of carbon dioxide equivalent per year. The reduction is equivalent to the annual greenhouse gas emissions from more than 31,600 passenger vehicles or the carbon dioxide emissions from 385,200 barrels of oil consumed. The direct-use projects will use 830 standard cubic feet per minutes and the electricity-generation projects total 13.3 megawatts of generation capacity.

Other awardees are: Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority Small Engine Project, Christiansburg, Va.; Frederick County Electricity Project, Winchester, Va.; Crow Wing County Small On-Site LFG Boiler Project, Brainerd, Minn.; and, Newton County Renewable Energy Park LFG Direct-Use Project, Brook, Ind. Escambia County (Pensacola, Florida) was named the community partner of the year at the conference.